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in rats and in ground squirrels. The infection in ground squirrels has so far appeared in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, California, chiefly the former, where, up to September 10, 1909, 220 plague-infected squirrels had been found. The Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service is attempting to destroy all the ground squirrels in the involved area, or at least to so reduce them in number that the plague infection among them will die out of its own accord. This article gives a detailed account of plague infection among the ground squirrels in Contra Costa County, and the relation of squirrel plague to plague in man. It also describes the means employed for the destruction of the squirrels, and gives a serial list of infected squirrels with the location where found. The article has been reprinted, and a limited edition is available for distribution to those interested. Requests for copies should be made to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.

A BILL to promote the economic development of the United Kingdom and the improvement of the roads was introduced in the House of Commons on August 26 by the chancellor of the exchequer. In the explanatory memorandum, as summarized in *Nature*, it is stated that the bill enables the treasury to make free grants and loans for the purpose of aiding and developing forestry, agriculture and rural industries, the reclamation and drainage of land, the improvement of rural transport (other than roads), the construction and improvement of harbors and canals, and the development and improvement of fisheries, and for many other purposes calculated to promote the economic development of the United Kingdom. A grant or loan must be made either to or through a government department, and all applications for grants or loans have to be referred to an advisory committee, and the recommendations of the committee considered before the grant or loan is made; but the responsibility of making the grant or loan will rest with the treasury, who will not be bound by the recommendations of the committee. All grants and loans will be made

out of a separate fund, which will be fed by (1) sums annually voted by parliament; (2) a sum of £2,500,000 charged on the consolidated fund and payable in five annual instalments of £500,000 each in 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915; (3) sums received by way of interest on and repayment of loans and the profits made as the result of a grant or loan in cases where the repayment of such profits is made a condition of the grant or loan. Power is given to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland to acquire land (compulsory if necessary) for any purpose for which a grant is made to them. The bill will permit the expenditure of money on scientific research and experimental work of a kind likely to be beneficial to agriculture. The bill further constitutes a Road Board for the purpose of improving the facilities for motor traffic. In addition to the power of acquiring land for the purposes of new roads proposed to be constructed by the Road Board, the board is given power to acquire land in rural districts on either side of any such proposed road to the extent of 220 yards in depth.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY has received \$15,000 from Mrs. James Augustus Rumrill, to establish three scholarships.

THE alumni fund of Yale University was increased last year by \$73,000, the total fund now being \$361,000.

AN anonymous gift of \$250,000 has been made toward providing a pension fund for teachers in the public schools of Pittsburgh.

EX-GOVERNOR JAMES D. PORTER, LL.D., has resigned the presidency of Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville, Tennessee, which office he has held for seven years. The duties of the office have been assigned to Dr. J. I. D. Hinds, professor of chemistry, and for several years dean of the college faculty. Dr. Hinds will hold this position until a president is elected by the trustees of the New George Peabody College for Teachers, which is now in the process of organization. Governor Por-

ter retains his position as a member of the Peabody Education Board and chancellor of the University of Nashville.

MAJOR FREDERICK S. RUSSELL, U.S.A., professor of pathology in the Army Medical School and curator of the Army Medical Museum, has been selected to succeed Dr. Joseph J. Kinyoun as professor of pathology and bacteriology in George Washington University.

DR. ROSS ANDERSON has resigned as professor of bacteriology and pathology in the University of Utah, and has been succeeded by Dr. Frank A. McC. Jenkin, of the University of Michigan.

AT Western Reserve University, instructors have been appointed as follows: John A. Black, A.M., in chemistry; A. H. Ford, A.M., in mathematics; Clinton R. Stauffer, in geology; Davidson Black, M.D., in histology and embryology.

IN the medical department of the University of Texas, Dr. Henry Hartman has been appointed demonstrator of pathology and Dr. E. E. Calloway, demonstrator of anatomy.

E. H. HENDERSON, Ph.D. (Columbia), professor of education and psychology at Adelphi College, Brooklyn, has been transferred to the chair of philosophy.

DR. S. E. WOLBACH has been appointed director of the histological laboratory of McGill University.

AT Queen's University, at Kingston, Ont., Dr. W. O. Walker has been appointed associate professor.

DR. GEORGE A. GIBSON, F.R.S., has been appointed professor of mathematics at Glasgow, in succession to Professor Jack, who has resigned.

MR. T. MATHER, F.R.S., has been appointed professor of electrical engineering at the City and Guilds Central Technical College in succession to the late Professor Aryton, F.R.S.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN, B.Sc., lecturer in electro-technology at the Royal College of Science for Ireland, has been appointed, as

from October 1, to the chair of physics in the college, which will become vacant on that date owing to the retirement of Professor W. F. Barrett, F.R.S., under the treasury regulations as to age.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### PROGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE ESPERANTO

ON account of the importance of an international language to science, American scientists will undoubtedly be interested in the following bits of information concerning the international language Esperanto. This language was endorsed by the Pan-American Scientific Congress, which met in Chili, and it was recommended that Esperanto be taught generally in the schools.

The International Medical Congress, which met this summer at Buda Pesth, received ten reports in Esperanto.

The International Congress of Psychologists, at its recent meeting in Geneva, admitted Esperanto as an official language, placing it on the same basis as German, French, English and Italian. Four addresses were made in Esperanto at the general sessions.

The report of the ninth International Congress of Geography, recently held in Geneva, has been printed (unofficially) in Esperanto.

The eighth International Congress of Hydrology, Climatology and Physiotherapy, which met in the city of Algiers in April, made official use of Esperanto in its sessions.

The Brazilian government recently published in Esperanto a résumé of the industrial development of Brazil. As any one who is familiar with one or two modern languages and knows a little Latin can easily acquire a reading knowledge of Esperanto in a few weeks, it is suggested that any who are interested in the above report might do well to secure a copy of it. Many other minor notes might be given, showing that Esperanto is rapidly assuming the place which was intended for it, namely, as a means of inter-communication between people who speak different languages.

I may add to the above notes that there is a strong international organization of physi-